

Gullah-Geechee Land and Cultural Preservation Task Force
Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2018 - 1:00 PM
Conference Room 3 – Town Hall

Task Force Members present: Lavon Stevens (Chairman), Martha Davis, Ibrahim Abdul-Malik, Joyce Wright, Palmer Simmons, Todd Theodore, Theresa White (by phone)

Town Council Members present: Marc Grant

Community Development Staff present: Jayme Lopko, Jennifer Ray, Nicole Dixon

- Chairman Stevens called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.
- The agenda for today's meeting and the minutes from the January 8, 2018 meeting were accepted by general consent.
- Jayme Lopko informed the Task Force that the seminar on heirs property with the Center for Heirs Property Preservation has been set for Saturday February 24th at 10am at St. James Baptist Church. Jayme Lopko also informed the Task Force that Chairman Stevens will be giving a quarterly update to Town Council at their February 20th meeting.
- The Task Force discussed the process of a Town Request for Proposal (RFP) to hire a consultant and/or attorney to assist with proposing changes to the Land Management Ordinance (LMO) dealing with heirs property and Gullah culture preservation. Chairman Stevens asked that Caroline McVitty and Ibrahim Abdul-Malik participate in the RFP process with Town staff.
- Ibrahim Abdul-Malik asked that in the future agendas for the Task Force meetings include an Unfinished Business heading. This heading would include important items discussed at previous meetings and would stay on the agenda until they have been resolved. Chairman Stevens agreed and asked staff to include this on future agendas.
- The Task Force discussed the creation of a resource center for Gullah culture, heirs property, Ward One plans, and other historical documents at the Town. Joyce Wright volunteered to work with Jayme Lopko to draft a list of items to include in the center. Theresa White volunteered to collect 5 to 6 case studies of Gullah and heirs property issues to include in the resource center.
- Chairman Stevens opened the meeting for public comment and the following were received: what would the consultant do, and the committee working on the RFP should set deadlines and come back with recommendations.
- Jayme Lopko provided the following updates: NIBCAA and Volunteers in Medicine (VIM) would like to partner with the Town and the Task Force for an oyster roast following the heirs property seminar on February 24th, the design for the neighborhood signs was approved by the community, the first sign for Mitchelville has received a permit, and it should be installed by February 9th, and the list of Gullah properties was provided to Beaufort County and they were asked to send Jayme Lopko a list of properties that were subject to the tax sale last year and to provide monthly updates on properties that are late with taxes this year.
- Chairman Stevens adjourned the meeting at 2:31 PM.

Submitted by: Jayme Lopko
Meeting date: January 22, 2018
Approved: February 5, 2018